

Corolla Wild Horse Fund

A registered 501 © (3) Not-for-Profit Charity

Spring 2022

1130E Corolla Village Rd
P.O. Box 361
Corolla, NC 27927
corollawildhorses.org
252-453-8002

WILD AND FREE



THE FUTURE OF THE HERD

The Mission of the Corolla Wild Horse Fund is to protect, conserve, and responsibly manage the herd of wild Colonial Spanish Mustangs roaming freely on the northernmost Currituck Outer Banks, and to promote the continued preservation of this land as a permanent sanctuary for horses designated as the State Horse and defined as a cultural treasure by the state of North Carolina.

Staff

Jo Langone
Chief Operating Officer

Dan Gillogly
Chief Financial Officer

Meg Puckett
Herd Manager

Nora Tarpley
Trainer and Registry Manager

Devon Eyring
Farm Care and Registry Asst

Marley Crawford
Donor Programs

Kara Hosler
Administrative Assistant

Jeff Chedister
Martha Chedister
Dolly Chesnut
Bill Crone
Fran Hamilton
Roy Hamilton
Lynette Sawyer



Brio at our rescue farm

Every foal born to the wild Banker herd has the potential to contribute greatly to the future of the breed. A healthy, sustainable herd size should total 120 to 130 horses.

A Corolla herd size lower than 110 could result in high levels of inbreeding and low levels of genetic diversity. When numbers drop below suggested minimums, the horses are also at risk of being completely eliminated by disease, drought, fire, flood, or hurricane. We could lose the Banker horses forever.

The decision to remove *any* horse from the wild is one that should never be taken lightly. Removing a foal is an even more difficult choice to make. Rescued horses can never return to the wild once removed, so intervention is a last-resort option — a decision only made once it's clear a horse is suffering from catastrophic, fatal injury or illness that prevents it from keeping up with its family group, traveling to fresh water, and/or eating.

Even conditions caused by end-of-life complications (failing teeth, arthritis, etc.) are not always causes for removal. We do our best to monitor an affected horse while still allowing it to live out its life naturally in the wild as it deserves. We will intervene and humanely euthanize in the field when it becomes clear a horse is needlessly suffering and clearly not going to recover.

Rescuing Brio

There are special cases in which we have no choice but to remove a foal from the wild, such as Brio. Brio was born last summer and remained with his mother, Monkey, until late February 2022. On February 27, Fund staff was notified that Brio appeared to be alone, calling out for his mother. Since Brio was of weaning age and did not appear to be in immediate physical danger, we and our vet felt it was best to monitor him and give him a chance to either reunite with his mother, or join up with the herd containing his father, Rocky, and several other horses.

On March 7, it became clear to our herd manager and our trainer that Brio remained alone and his health was declining. His chances of thriving on his own were slim. They brought Brio to the rescue farm, where our vet determined he had developed pneumonia and was underweight. Since then, Brio has received extra special care and attention to ensure a healthy recovery. While we are sad to have lost a foal from the wild herd, we are grateful for the outpouring support we have received for Brio's rehabilitation. He is adapting to farm-life quite well, and will surely be a favorite among visitors to the farm this summer. To learn more about Brio, visit corollawildhorses.org.

Spring and Summer Fun

Spring Open House

On Saturday, April 23rd, our rescue farm on the mainland — The Betsy Dowdy Equine Center — will be open to the public from 10am to 2pm.

Visit the farm, located on the mainland in Grandy, and meet the rescued Corolla horses currently in our care. We hope this may be an opportunity for homeowners who might not be here in the summer season to come out and see the work we do!

Mustang Mornings at the Farm

May 25, 2022 through August 31, 2022

Join us on Wednesdays this summer from 10am to 2pm at the Betsy Dowdy Equine Center for *Mustang Mornings*!

Meet rescued Corolla horses and the staff responsible for their care and the management of the wild herd.

CWHF shirts, hats, and other gifts will be available for purchase. Horse sponsorships are also available if you take interest in a particular rescue horse!

More info at corollawildhorses.org/events

A Day of Appreciation



Even Raymond wanted in on the photo!

On a beautiful Saturday in March, many CWHF staff, volunteers, and their family members gathered for a fun day at our rescue farm on the mainland. It was the first time in years that we were able to come together as a team and truly celebrate one another's contributions to the Fund.

Though CWHF has a small number of full-time staff on board, we have over 50 incredible part-time staff and volunteers that help make all of our work possible. We are so grateful to have this community of caring, passionate individuals dedicated to protecting and preserving the Banker horses.

By the Numbers: Spring 2022

11	Mares carry their offspring for an 11-month gestation period. We typically see births beginning in April lasting through summer and sometimes into fall.
1989	A group of concerned citizens came together in 1989 to form the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, meaning we have been operating now for nearly 33 years.
14	Betsy Dowdy was 14 years old when she rode her Banker horse, Black Bess, fifty miles on December 10, 1775 to alert Colonial General William Skinner and his men at Hertford that their help was needed to defeat the Red Coats. Our rescue farm is named in Betsy's honor.
1926	In an article published by National Geographic in 1926, Melville Charter noted that there were between 5,000 and 6,000 Banker horses on the Outer Banks.
21	The number of Corolla Bankers that currently reside at the CWHF rescue farm, including one good-looking mule!
98	Estimated number of wild horses currently living on the northern beaches of Corolla. We are hopeful for a successful foal season this year to strengthen our herd size.
350	Horses have a 350-degree field of vision, which is almost four times more than what humans can perceive. A horse's line of vision extends from the tip of its nose around its side and back to its hip.

Defining a Harem



Photo taken by Nicole Ange, 2007

What is the difference between the **herd** and a **harem**? The term "herd" encompasses *all* of the wild Banker horses living on the 4x4. "Harems" are smaller, separate groups of horses that may range from two to fifteen individuals. A typical harem is made up of mostly mares and their offspring, with one or several stallions. The composition of

harems changes as young horses are driven out of their natal harem and join other harems, or as stallions challenge each other for dominance to gain the other's mares.

Within the harem, there is usually only one lead stallion. The reproductive success of the lead stallion is determined in part by his ability to prevent other males from mating with the mares of his harem. The stallion exercises protective behavior, patrolling around the harem, and taking the initiative when the group encounters a potential threat. Some harems may also contain a lieutenant stallion. The lieutenant stallion is not a threat to the lead stallion, so is allowed to live with the harem and serve as an additional means of protection. Often this is an older stallion, but can also be a younger stallion that the lead horse tolerates and does not view as a challenge.

There is a very distinct pecking order within harems. The horse that tends to lead the harem is the dominant mare, known as the alpha mare. The alpha mare is usually in charge, unless the stallion senses a threat and moves the harem himself. The mare guides the herd to food and water, controls the daily routine and movement of the harem, and ensures their general wellbeing. When you see the horses walking down the beach, it is generally the alpha mare that is up front and the stallion that brings up the rear.